

Psalm 37:18-40

Novit Dominus

18 The Lord cares for the lives of the godly, *
and their inheritance shall last for ever.

19 They shall not be ashamed in bad times, *
and in days of famine they shall have enough.

20 As for the wicked, * they shall perish, and the enemies of the Lord,
like the glory of the meadows, shall vanish; *
they shall vanish like smoke.

21 The wicked borrow and do not repay, *
but the righteous are generous in giving.

22 Those who are blessed by God shall possess the land, *
but those who are cursed by God shall be destroyed.

23 Our steps are directed by the Lord *
who strengthens those in whose way God delights.

24 If they stumble, they shall not fall headlong, *
for the Lord holds them by the hand.

25 I have been young and now I am old, *
but never have I seen the righteous forsaken,
or their children begging bread.

26 The righteous are always generous in their lending, *
and their children shall be a blessing.

Morning Prayer – Tuesday October 20, 2026

27 Turn from evil, and do good, *
and dwell in the land for ever.

28 For the Lord loves justice *
and does not forsake those who are faithful.
They shall be kept safe for ever, *
but the offspring of the wicked shall be destroyed.

29 The righteous shall possess the land *
and dwell in it for ever.

30 The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, *
and their tongue speaks what is right.

31 The law of their God is in their heart, *
and their footsteps shall not falter.

32 The wicked spy on the righteous *
and seek occasion to kill them.

33 The Lord will not abandon them to their hand, *
nor let them be found guilty when brought to trial.

34 Wait upon the Lord and keep the ways of God, *
who will raise you up to possess the land,
and when the wicked are cut off, *
you will see it.

35 I have seen the wicked in their arrogance, *
flourishing like a tree in full leaf.

36 I went by, and behold, they were not there; *
I searched for them, but they could not be found.

37 Mark those who are honest; observe the upright; *
for there is a future for the peaceable.

38 Transgressors shall be destroyed, one and all; *
the future of the wicked is cut off.

39 But the deliverance of the righteous comes from the Lord, *
who is their stronghold in time of trouble.

40 The Lord will help them and rescue them; *
rescuing them from the wicked and delivering them,
because they seek refuge in God.

Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word, and Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Sirach 6:5-17

A reading from the Wisdom of Ben Sira.

Pleasant speech multiplies friends,
and a gracious tongue multiplies courtesies.
Let those who are at peace with you be many,
but let your advisers be one in a thousand.
When you gain friends, gain them through testing,
and do not trust them hastily.
For there are friends who are such when it suits them,
but they will not stand by you in time of trouble.
And there are friends who turn to enmity
and tell of the quarrel to your disgrace.
And there are friends who are companions at the table,
but they will not stand by you in time of trouble.
When you are prosperous, they become your second self
and boldly command your slaves,
but if you are brought low, they turn against you
and hide themselves from you.
Keep away from your enemies, and be on guard with your friends.

Faithful friends are a sturdy shelter;
whoever finds one has found a treasure.
Faithful friends are beyond price; no amount can balance their worth.
Faithful friends are life-saving medicine,
and those who fear the Lord will find them.
Those who fear the Lord direct their friendship aright,
for as they are, so are their neighbors also.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.